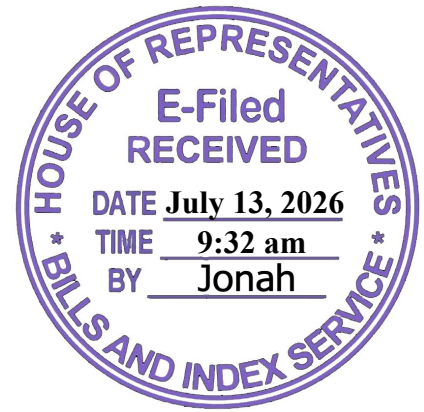


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10048



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture remains a vital pillar of the Philippine economy, providing livelihoods for millions of Filipinos and ensuring food security for the entire nation. However, our agricultural sector continues to grapple with a persistent and costly challenge: high post-harvest losses.

Due to a severe lack of modern, accessible post-harvest facilities—such as drying systems, cold storage units, milling facilities, and warehouses—Filipino farmers are often forced to dry their grains on public roads or sell their fresh produce immediately at heavily depressed prices to avoid spoilage.

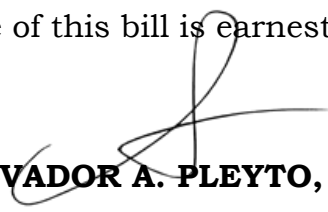
According to the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech), post-harvest losses in rice and corn alone can range from 10% to 15%, while losses in high-value crops like fruits and vegetables can skyrocket up to 30% to 40% due to rapid degradation in our tropical climate.

These losses translate directly to diminished incomes for our marginalized farmers and higher food prices for consumers. Moreover, it undermines national food self-sufficiency, forcing the country to rely heavily on agricultural imports.

This bill seeks to address this systemic bottleneck by mandating the establishment of modern, climate-resilient post-harvest facilities in every rice, corn, and high-value crop-producing city or municipality nationwide.

Investing in post-harvest infrastructure is not just an agricultural strategy; it is a direct intervention for poverty alleviation and national food security.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10048

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING POSTHARVEST FACILITIES IN EVERY RICE,
CORN, AND HIGH-VALUE CROP PRODUCING CITY OR MUNICIPALITY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Mandatory Agricultural Postharvest Facilities Act."

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* –It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote agricultural modernization, ensure food security, increase the income of farmers, and reduce agricultural waste. To achieve these objectives, the State shall proactively provide the necessary infrastructure, machinery, and technology to minimize post-harvest losses and enhance the value chain of Philippine agricultural products.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- Postharvest Facilities - refers to structures, machinery, and equipment used in the handling, drying, milling, cooling, storage, packaging, and distribution of agricultural produce to maintain its quality and prolong its shelf life.
- High-Value Crops - refers to crops defined under Republic Act No. 7900, otherwise known as the High-Value Crops Development Act of 1995, which have competitive market potential, including but not limited to fruits, vegetables, legumes, spices, and plantation crops.

- Producing City or Municipality - refers to any local government unit (LGU) categorized by the Department of Agriculture (DA) as a major or strategic producer of rice, corn, or high-value crops based on land area allocation and annual yield benchmarks.

Sec. 4. *Establishment of Postharvest Facilities.*— The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the respective Local Government Units (LGUs), shall establish, operate, and maintain modern, climate-resilient post-harvest facilities in every rice, corn, and high-value crop-producing city or municipality in the country.

The specific types of facilities to be established shall be determined based on the primary crop and specific needs of the locality, which may include:

- For Rice and Corn Producing Localities: Mechanical grain dryers (recirculating and batch types), biomass-fueled dryers, modern rice/corn mills, and temperature-controlled warehouses.
- For High-Value Crop Producing Localities: Cold storage facilities, packing houses, sorting and grading equipment, and refrigerated transport systems (cold chain).

Sec. 5. *Priority and Mapping.*— Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the DA, through its regional field offices, shall conduct a comprehensive nationwide assessment and mapping to identify and prioritize municipalities and cities with the highest volume of production and most critical deficit in post-harvest infrastructure.

Sec. 6. *Management and Operation.*— To ensure sustainability, the DA shall hand over the management and operation of these post-harvest facilities to accredited farmers' cooperatives, associations (FCAs), or agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs) through a customized lease or usufruct agreement. The DA and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) shall provide the beneficiary cooperatives with continuous technical, entrepreneurial, and managerial training.

In cases where no qualified cooperative exists, the respective LGU shall temporarily manage the facility under the strict supervision of the DA.

Sec. 7. *Minimal Service Fees.*— Farmers' cooperatives or LGUs managing the facilities may charge minimal, highly subsidized service fees to users. The collection shall be utilized exclusively for the operational expenses, electricity, maintenance, and future depreciation costs of the machinery and facilities.

Sec. 8. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to cover the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation, maintenance, and expansion shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Sec. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of Public Works and Highways, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, and representatives from nationwide farmers' federations, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 10. Separability Clause. – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 11. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances, and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 12. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,